

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 10, 2005

No. 05-05

## **ALASKA IS "GOING WILD" IN BOSTON THIS WEEK**

### **Special State of Alaska Celebration to be Held During 2005 International Boston Seafood Show**

**(Boston) March 13, 2005-** The State of Alaska and the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development are co-hosting a one-of-a-kind, invite-only event, showcasing the best that Alaska has to offer. Held on **Sunday, March 13, 2005**, the event will take place in the elegant **Sheraton Boston Hotel**, located in the heart of downtown Boston.

This marketing venture will coincide with the **23<sup>rd</sup> annual International Boston Seafood Show**, held in the new Boston Convention and Exhibition Center March 13-15. The show features representatives of all facets of the seafood industry and is a must-attend event for seafood buyers and sellers from around the world.

"Alaska remains a major player in the seafood industry," said Commerce Commissioner Edgar Blatchford. "This event, held in Boston during the seafood industry's largest annual tradeshow, is the perfect opportunity to market Alaska's pure and abundant seafood to the most influential seafood buyers from around the world."

Actor and friend of Alaska **Tom Skerritt** will serve as the evening's celebrity guest MC. He has appeared in numerous films including Robert Altman's *M\*A\*S\*H*, *Steel Magnolias* with Sally Field, *Contact*, *A River Runs Through It* directed by Robert Redford, *Alien*, *The Turning Point* with Shirley MacLaine, *Space Camp*, and opposite Tom Cruise in the 1986 film *Top Gun*.

At the event, guests will be treated to a taste of Alaskan culture and heritage, all while enjoying a large variety of professionally prepared seafood from the pure and clean waters of Alaska. **Bob** and **David Kinkead**, **John Besh**, **Kaz Okochi**, **Richard Vellante**, and of course our own **Al Levisohn**, are just a sampling of the celebrity chefs that will be demonstrating first-hand to purchasers what they can do with Alaska products at high-end restaurants. Entertainment will include the **King Cove Dancers** sponsored by the Aleutia brand. These young artists come from King Cove, Alaska and have been showcased on Good Morning America. Music will be provided by the exceptional Alaskan and Nashville artist **Hobo Jim**, featuring music from his new CD. Special guests include Alaska's Lt. Governor, Alaska's Commissioner of Commerce, State Legislatures, Mrs. Alaska, and the Alaska Native Arts Foundation.

For additional information regarding the Special Alaska Celebration, please visit our web site at <http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/boston/home.cfm>.

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